

CABLE NETWORK REDUNDANCY ARCHITECTURE

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A CMTS redundancy technique requires at least two CMTS interfaces (e.g., line cards)
on one or more CMTS chassis at the head end of a cable network. One of the CMTSs serves
as a backup or “protecting” CMTS. When another CMTS (a “working” CMTS) becomes
unavailable to service its group of cable modems, the protecting CMTS takes over service to
those cable modems. The SWITCHOVER takes place transparently (or nearly transparently)
10 to the cable modems. The protecting CMTS provides service on the same downstream
channel as used by the working CMTS. The cable modems need not modify any settings
pursuant to their cable modem communication protocol (e.g., DOCSIS ranging). This
transparency to the cable modems is realized by keeping the working and protecting CMTSs
in synchronization regarding service parameters for the cable modems. In other words, the
15 protecting CMTS maintains a list of current parameters for allowing service to the cable
modems.